

## **County of Butler Emergency Solutions Grant- CARES (ESG-CV) Application Summary**

### **Citizen Comment:**

Below is an outline of the application the Human Services Department of the County of Butler will be submitting for Emergency Solutions Grant- CARES (ESG-CV) funds. The County of Butler, Human Services Department, intends to submit an application totaling \$1,546,519 for ESG-CV funding from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to support homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing and emergency shelter services to assist households that have been impacted by COVID-19, including the economic effects of the pandemic, and are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. If awarded, this grant will have a term of 18 months.

Approval of the application submission will be sought by the County Board of Commissioners at their public meeting on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Citizen comment regarding this application can be provided by calling the County Human Services Department at (724) 284-5114 or by sending an email to [afeltenb@co.butler.pa.us](mailto:afeltenb@co.butler.pa.us). Comments will be accepted for review until Tuesday, May 26 at 5pm.

### **Background Information:**

Emergency Solutions Grant – CARES (ESG-CV) – The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act) provided for a supplemental appropriation of Homeless Assistance Grants under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) as authorized by McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (P.L. 100-77), as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-22) (42 U.S.C.S. §11371 et. seq.).

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), has received the first allocation of ESG-CV funds – an appropriation of \$19,920,655 based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) federal fiscal year 2020 formula distribution. DCED will use the ESG CARES funding to support applicants who will work to end or prevent homelessness quickly and as efficiently as possible for all vulnerable populations.

Eligible activities include all activities listed in the Emergency Solutions Grant Interim Rule, published in the Federal Register on December 5, 2011. ESG-CV funds may be used for any single activity or combination of eligible activities as outlined below and address the priorities and any published supplemental requirements of the CARES Act in order to prepare for, prevent the spread of and respond to the coronavirus.

### **Application Outline:**

#### **Emergency Shelter**

Shelter Operations= \$43,264

Due to guidelines from the CDC regarding social distancing within shelter facilities, the programs we typically use to provide short-term, emergency shelter to individuals and families who are literally homeless are operating at an average of 50% capacity.

Funding in this line item will be used to provide emergency shelter in alternate settings

as needed. This amount would cover the cost of approximately 832 bed nights of shelter during the grant term. (These funds will be subcontracted to Catholic Charities.)

Essential Services= \$6,271

0.1 FTE Case Manager to work with individuals and families being served in shelter  
(These funds will be subcontracted to Catholic Charities.)

### **Homelessness Prevention (HP)**

Rental Assistance= \$937,440

HP Rental Assistance funds will be used to assist eligible households (50% Area Median Income or less) who are facing eviction to pay past due rent. We anticipate providing assistance to approximately 248 households, though this number could vary depending on the amount of assistance needed by each household. Assistance amounts will be determined on a case by case basis, with the ultimate goal of keeping households that were in some way impacted by COVID-19 from becoming homeless, while also ensuring that local landlords are receiving the rental payments due to them. (These funds will be subcontracted to Catholic Charities.)

Financial Assistance= \$188,976

HP Financial Assistance funds will be used to provide utility assistance to eligible households in order to avoid their utilities being turned off once the moratorium has lifted. We anticipate providing assistance to approximately 124 households, though this number could vary depending on the amount of assistance needed by each household. (These funds will be subcontracted to Catholic Charities.)

Services= \$58,947

Housing quality and lead inspections are required by ESG federal regulations to be completed for any unit of housing where assistance is being provided. We are going to subcontract with an organization to assist with the completion of the housing quality and lead inspections so that these can be quickly completed and assistance can be provided as soon as possible, both to benefit the tenant in need and also the landlords in the community. 248 inspections x \$80 per inspection= \$19,840. We anticipate that about 15% of the units inspected will require a re-inspection. 37 re-inspections x \$40= \$1,480. (These funds will be subcontracted to the Nonprofit Development Corporation.)

0.6 FTE Case Manager to work with individuals and families being served in the Homelessness Prevention portion of the program= \$37,627 (These funds will be subcontracted to Catholic Charities.)

### **Rapid Rehousing (RRH)**

Rental Assistance= \$162,750

RRH Rental Assistance funds will be used to assist eligible households (50% Area Median Income or less) who are literally homeless. We anticipate providing assistance to approximately 62 households, though this number could vary depending on the amount of assistance needed by each household. Assistance amounts will be determined on a case by case basis, with the ultimate goal of rapidly connecting individuals and families who are homeless with permanent housing. (These funds will be subcontracted to Catholic Charities.)

Financial Assistance= \$37,200

RRH Financial Assistance funds will be used to provide security deposit payments and/or utility deposits for households involved with the RRH portion of the program.

Services= \$17,862

Housing quality and lead inspections are required by ESG federal regulations to be completed for any unit of housing where assistance is being provided. We are going to subcontract with an organization to assist with the completion of the housing quality and lead inspections so that these can be quickly completed and assistance can be provided as soon as possible, both to benefit the household in need and also the landlords in the community. 62 inspections x \$80 per inspection= \$4,960. We anticipate that about 15% of the units inspected will require a re-inspection. 9 re-inspections x \$40= \$360. (These funds will be subcontracted to the Nonprofit Development Corporation.)

0.2 FTE Case Manager to work with individuals and families being served in the Rapid Rehousing portion of the program= \$12,542 (These funds will be subcontracted to Catholic Charities.)

#### **HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)**

Funds in this line will be used to pay for 0.1 FTE to enter necessary data into HMIS as required by the federal regulations for this funding= \$6,271

Total program funds= \$1,458,981

Admin 6%= \$87,538 (These funds will be split between the County of Butler, Catholic Charities and the Nonprofit Development Corporation to cover the administrative costs related to administering and operating the ESG CV program.)

Total request= \$1,546,519